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## **CORE bill encouraging affordable housing signed into law**

**LANSING** – Legislation to promote the development of affordable housing has been signed into law, announced Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

A key component of the Creating Opportunities for Renewed Economies package, Senate Bill 1206, now Public Act 396, amends the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act to allow for the redevelopment of qualified historic buildings. It allows developers to be eligible for the state historic tax credit and the full benefit of the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone tax abatement.

“I’m glad to see this legislation signed as affordable housing is a vital part of the CORE package,” Allen said. “This is great news for the citizens of northern Michigan.”

The CORE package, initiated by Allen, is geared toward expanding and coordinating many state economic programs to operate more effectively, as well as provide incentives for growth in cities and villages.

Of notable importance to the northern Michigan community, is the amendment to allow cities of a population less than 20,000 to establish a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone even if they do not have a city-wide housing inspection ordinance. Homes included in a neighborhood enterprise zone are still subject to inspection.

“This law will provide communities with the economic tools they need to create additional affordable housing,” Allen said. “I am proud that we were able to fashion it in a way that benefits smaller northern Michigan communities. Areas without municipal-wide housing inspection ordinances could make use of this great program.”

The new law also amends the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone tax abatement rules to allow zones to be contiguous regardless of roads, rights of way or condemned properties.

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